Gas and Oil Reserve in NER

979. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserve and annual recovery of gas and crude oil in the North Eastern Region indicating block-wise availability and details of plan finalized for production;

(b) the action taken for improvement of domestic crude production and optimum utilization of refineries in Assam showing present status and target set for improvement during the Tenth Plan Period; and

(c) the annual value of gas flared in Assam, investment made and mechanism evolved to prevent flaring of gas with success rate and future prospect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The balance recoverable reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the North Eastern region as on 1.4.2003 are 171.65 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 165.45 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM), respectively. Information on blockwise hydrocarbon reserves is not maintained. The production of oil and gas in the North Eastern Region during 2002-03 was 4.73 MMT and 2.53 BCM respectively.

In the North Eastern Region, oil and gas reserves have been established in the following fields/structures:

1) Naharkatiya
2) Hapjan
3) Kumchai/Kherem
4) Lakhmani
5) Rudrasagar
6) Chinmaigapm
7) Khoraghat
8) Badarpur
9) Moran
10) Makum
11) Digboi
12) Lakwa
13) Geleki
14) Amguri
15) Safrai
16) Nambhar
17) Adamtilla
18) Greater Jorajan
19) Shalmari
20) Kharsanj
21) Demulgaon
22) Charali
23) Borholla
24) Champang
25) Banaskandi

The planned production of oil and gas during the year 2003-04 by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited

(OIL) and Private/Joint Venture (Pvt./JV) companies in the North Eastern Region is as follow:

	Oil (MMT)	Gas (BCM)
ONGC OIL	2.030	1.045
Pvt./JV Cos.	3.200	1.805
	0.048	0.008
Total	5.278	2.858

(b) The following steps are envisaged to enhance oil/gas production in the North Eastern region:

(i) Increased exploration efforts in producing & non-producing basins to increase the reserve base.

(ii) Opening of new areas by the National oil companies as well as Pvt./JV Cos. for further exploration.

(iii) Offering of new areas for exploration under NELP.

(iv) Implementation of Increased Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) in various fields.

(v) Putting the newly discovered and small/marginal fields on production as early as possible.

In the 10th Plan period it is envisaged to produce about 49.55 MMT of crude oil from the North Eastern Region.

As regards refineries in the North Eastern region, the Govt. have decided to allocate 1.5 million metric tonne (MMT) of Rawa crude oil to Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) for the year 2003-04. Consequent upon this allocation, the total crude oil availability for the North East refineries for the year 2003-04 would be 1.5 MMT over and above the production of Crude in the North East. It has been further decided that the overall availability of crude in the North East refineries including 1.5 MMT of Ravva crude, would be apportioned among the four North East refineries in proportion to their installed capacities.The increased availability of crude would improve the capacity utilization and viability of North East refineries.

(c) As indicated by CNGC and OIL, the national value of gas flared in the North Eastern Region during 2002-03 was about Rs. 7.07 crore and Rs. 14.68 crore respectively.

As regards ONGC, they have so far made an investment of 86.39 crore since 1998 towards various schemes for reducing gas flaring. The value of investment made by OIL in this regard in the last 10 years has been over Rs. 350 crore.

Some of the important steps taken by the ONGC and OIL are the following:

* Installation of booster compressors.

* Construction of gas evacuation facilities.

* Gas storage facilities to conserve surplus gas.

* Identifying new consumers.

With the implementation of these schemes ONGC has already brought down the gas flaring in the region to 10% of the total production. As regards OIL, flaring has been reduced to about 6%.

Present position of Indo-Iran gas pipeline

†980. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the proposed Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline;

(b) whether Pakistan has shown its willingness to accord necessary security guarantee to this project; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.